

DOCKET NO. D-1973-199 CP-4

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

**Borough of Boyertown
Wastewater Treatment Plant
Douglass Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania**

PROCEEDINGS

This docket is issued in response to an Application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) by The Pidcock Company, on behalf of the Borough of Boyertown on May 22, 2015 (Application), for renewal of the docket holder's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and its discharge. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. PA0024376 for the project discharge was issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on October 15, 2015.

The Application was reviewed for continuation of the project in the Comprehensive Plan and approval under Section 3.8 of the *Delaware River Basin Compact*. The Montgomery County Planning Commission has been notified of pending action. A public hearing on this project was held by the DRBC on August 10, 2016.

A. DESCRIPTION

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of this docket is to renew the approval of the docket holder's existing 0.75 million gallons per day (mgd) WWTP and its discharge.
2. **Location.** The project WWTP will continue to discharge treated effluent to Swamp Creek, which is a tributary to the Perkiomen Creek at River Mile 92.47 – 32.3 – 12.9 – 11.9 (Delaware River – Schuylkill River – Perkiomen Creek – Swamp Creek) via Outfall No. 001, in Douglass Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania as follows:

OUTFALL NO.	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
001	40° 19' 42"	75° 36' 35"

3. **Area Served.** The Borough of Boyertown WWTP will continue to serve the Borough of Boyertown, located in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. For the purpose of defining the Area Served, Section B (Type of Discharge) and D (Service Area) of the docket holder's Application are incorporated herein by reference, to the extent consistent with all other conditions contained in the DECISION Section of this docket.

4. **Physical Features.**

a. **Design Criteria.** The existing Borough of Boyertown WWTP utilizes an activated sludge treatment system and has a hydraulic design capacity of 0.75 mgd.

b. **Facilities.** The WWTP treatment facilities consist of a screening and grit removal chamber, two (2) primary clarifiers, two (2) aeration tanks, two (2) secondary clarifiers, two (2) final clarifiers, chemical addition facilities for phosphorous and pH treatment, and chlorine contact disinfection. The WWTP also features sludge handling facilities including two (2) anaerobic digestors and a belt filter press.

The project facilities are located outside the 100-year flood zone.

Wasted sludge will continue to be hauled off-site by a licensed hauler for disposal at a state approved facility.

c. **Water withdrawals.** The potable water supply in the project service area is provided by Borough of Boyertown from three surface water sources, approved by the Commission by Docket No. D-1980-074 CP-1 on December 16, 1981.

d. **NPDES Permit / DRBC Docket.** NPDES Permit No. PA0024736 was issued by the PADEP on October 15, 2015 and includes final effluent limitations for the project discharge of 0.75 mgd to surface waters classified by the PADEP as Trout Stocking Fishes (TSF). The following average monthly effluent limits are among those listed in the NPDES Permit and meet or are more stringent than the effluent requirements of the DRBC.

EFFLUENT TABLE A-1: DRBC Parameters Included in NPDES Permit

OUTFALL 001 (Discharge to Swamp Creek)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
pH (Standard Units)	6 to 9 at all times	As required by NPDES permit
Total Suspended Solids	20 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit
CBOD (5-Day at 20° C)	20 mg/l (85% minimum removal)	As required by NPDES permit
Ammonia Nitrogen (5-1 to 10-31)	1.6 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit
(11-1 to 4-30)	4.8 mg/l	
Fecal Coliform	200 colonies per 100 ml	As required by NPDES permit
Total Dissolved Solids*	1,000 mg/l	As required by NPDES permit

* See DECISION Condition C.II.p.

e. **Cost.** There are no construction costs associated with this WWTP renewal.

f. **Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan.** The existing WWTP was first added to the Comprehensive Plan on June 24, 1964 via Docket No. D-1964-024 CP-1. The WWTP was then modified as described in Docket Nos. D-1973-199 CP-1 and D-1973-199 CP-2, approved on December 4, 1974 and May 10, 2006, respectively. The project WWTP was continued by

DRBC Docket No. D-1973-199 CP-3 on September 21, 2011. Issuance of this docket will continue the discharge project in the Comprehensive Plan.

B. FINDINGS

The docket holder has requested a renewal of the existing 0.75 mgd Borough of Boyertown WWTP.

Near the docket holder's WWTP discharge, Swamp Creek has an estimated seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years (Q_{7-10}) of 1.68 mgd (2.6 cfs). The ratio of this low flow to the hydraulic capacity of the existing Boyertown WWTP (0.75 mgd/ 1.39 cfs) is approximately 2.2 to 1.

The nearest surface water intake of record for public water supply downstream of the project discharge is operated by Aqua Pennsylvania on the Perkiomen Creek approximately 23 river miles away.

The project does not conflict with the Comprehensive Plan and is designed to prevent substantial adverse impact on the water resources related environment, while sustaining the current and future water uses and development of the water resources of the Basin.

The limits in the NPDES Permit are in compliance with Commission effluent quality requirements, where applicable.

The project is designed to produce a discharge meeting the effluent requirements as set forth in the Commission's *WQR*.

C. DECISION

I. Effective on the approval date for Docket No. D-1973-199 CP-4 below:

a. The project described in Docket No. D-1973-199 CP-3 is removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent that it is not included in Docket No. D-1973-199 CP-4; and

b. Docket No. D-1973-199 CP-3 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-1973-199 CP-4; and

c. The project and the appurtenant facilities described in Section A "Physical Features" of this docket shall be added to the Comprehensive Plan.

II. The project and appurtenant facilities as described in Section A "Physical Features" of this docket are approved pursuant to Section 3.8 of the *Compact*, subject to the following conditions:

a. Docket approval is subject to all conditions, requirements, and limitations imposed by the PADEP in its NPDES and WQM Permits, and such conditions, requirements, and limitations are incorporated herein, unless they are less stringent than the Commission's.

b. The facility and operational records shall be available at all times for inspection by the DRBC.

c. The facility shall be operated at all times to comply with the requirements of the Commission's *WQR* and Flood Plain Regulations (*FPR*).

d. The docket holder shall comply with the requirements contained in the EFFLUENT TABLES in Section A.4.d. of this docket. The docket holder shall submit the required monitoring results electronically to the DRBC Project Review Section via email aemr@drbc.state.nj.us on the **Annual Effluent Monitoring Report Form** located at this web address: <http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/programs/project/application/index.html>. The monitoring results shall be submitted annually, absent any observed limit violations, by January 31. If a DRBC effluent limit is violated, the docket holder shall submit the result(s) to the DRBC within 30 days of the violation(s) and provide a written explanation that states the action(s) the docket holder has taken to correct the violation(s) and protect against any future violations.

e. Except as otherwise authorized by this docket, if the docket holder seeks relief from any limitation based upon a DRBC water quality standard or minimum treatment requirement, the docket holder shall apply for approval from the Executive Director or for a docket revision in accordance with Section 3.8 of the *Compact* and the *Rules of Practice and Procedure*.

f. If at any time the receiving treatment plant proves unable to produce an effluent that is consistent with the requirements of this docket approval, no further connections shall be permitted until the deficiency is remedied.

g. Nothing herein shall be construed to exempt the docket holder from obtaining all necessary permits and/or approvals from other State, Federal or local government agencies having jurisdiction over this project.

h. The docket holder is permitted to treat and discharge wastewaters as set forth in the Area Served Section of this docket, which incorporates by reference Sections B (Type of Discharge) and D (Service Area) of the docket holder's Application to the extent consistent with all other conditions of this DECISION Section.

i. The docket holder shall make wastewater discharge in such a manner as to avoid injury or damage to fish or wildlife and shall avoid any injury to public or private property.

j. No sewer service connections shall be made to newly constructed premises with plumbing fixtures and fittings that do not comply with water conservation performance standards contained in Resolution No. 88-2 (Revision 2).

k. Nothing in this docket approval shall be construed as limiting the authority of DRBC to adopt and apply charges or other fees to this discharge or project.

l. The issuance of this docket approval shall not create any private or proprietary rights in the waters of the Basin, and the Commission reserves the right to amend, suspend or rescind the docket for cause, in order to ensure proper control, use and management of the water resources of the Basin.

m. Unless an extension is requested and approved by the Commission in advance, in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Commission's Project Review Fee schedule (Resolution No. 2009-2), the docket holder is responsible for timely submittal of a docket renewal application on the appropriate DRBC application form at least 12 months in advance of the docket expiration date set forth below. The docket holder will be subject to late charges in the event of untimely submittal of its renewal application, whether or not DRBC issues a reminder notice in advance of the deadline or the docket holder receives such notice. In the event that a timely and complete application for renewal has been submitted and the DRBC is unable, through no fault of the docket holder, to reissue the docket before the expiration date below (or the later date established by an extension that has been timely requested and approved), the terms and conditions of the current docket will remain fully effective and enforceable against the docket holder pending the grant or denial of the application for docket approval.

n. The Executive Director may modify or suspend this approval or any condition thereof, or require mitigating measures pending additional review, if in the Executive Director's judgment such modification or suspension is required to protect the water resources of the Basin.

o. Any person who objects to a docket decision by the Commission may request a hearing in accordance with Article 6 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure. In accordance with Section 15.1(p) of the *Delaware River Basin Compact*, cases and controversies arising under the *Compact* are reviewable in the United States district courts.

p. The docket holder may request of the Executive Director in writing the substitution of specific conductance for TDS. The request should include information that supports the effluent specific correlation between TDS and specific conductance. Upon review, the Executive Director may modify the docket to allow the substitution of specific conductance for TDS monitoring.

q. The docket holder is prohibited from treating/pre-treating any hydraulic fracturing wastewater from sources in or out of the Basin at this time. Should the docket holder wish to treat/pre-treat hydraulic fracturing wastewater in the future, the docket holder will need to first apply to the Commission to renew this docket and be issued a revised docket allowing such treatment and an expanded service area. Failure to obtain this approval prior to treatment/pre-treatment will result in action by the Commission.

BY THE COMMISSION

DATE APPROVED: **September 14, 2016**

EXPIRATION DATE: **September 14, 2021**